

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A composition for delivering an RNA to a cell comprising: a reversibly modified RNA consisting of ~~[[a]]~~ at least one hydrophobic group having one to twenty carbon atoms covalently linked to said RNA via a labile bond cleavable under mammalian physiological conditions and an amphipathic transfection reagent wherein the reversibly modified RNA and the amphipathic transfection reagent associate to form a complex and wherein association of the reversibly modified RNA ~~[[to]]~~ with the transfection reagent is enhanced via hydrophobic interactions between the hydrophobic group linked to the RNA with a hydrophobic part of the amphipathic transfection reagent.
- 2-3. (canceled)
4. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic group is linked to a ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA.
5. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the ~~hydrophobic group consists of a membrane active compound~~ labile is selected from the group consisting of: a silyl ether and a maleamate.
6. (previously presented) The composition of claim 4 wherein the RNA is modified at: a single ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA, more than one but not all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA, or all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA.
- 7-9. (canceled)
10. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the RNA is selected from the group consisting of siRNA and microRNA.
- 11-12. (canceled)
13. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA is more resistant to nucleases than the RNA if it were not linked to the hydrophobic group.
14. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein a plurality of hydrophobic groups are attached to said RNA via labile bonds.